

Bright Votes for Defense Appropriations Bill

Bill funds the Department of Defense and overseas military operations; contains money for missile built in Troy

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Bright voted for the Defense Department Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which funds the Department of Defense and military operations overseas. Many of the priorities funded by H.R. 3326 were authorized through the work that Congressman Bright and the Armed Services Committee completed in the National Defense Authorization Act. In addition, Congressman Bright was able to secure \$5 million for the Javelin Missile, which is built in Troy. Moreover, the bill continues to bar funds for the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Defense Appropriations Act, which passed with a bi-partisan 400 - 30 vote, now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

"Nothing is more important than ensuring that our brave men and women in uniform have the resources they need to be successful and keep us safe," Bright said. "The Defense Appropriations Act not only provides our soldiers with equipment for the battlefield, it also improves the medical services offered in our Armed Services. As was the case with the Defense Authorization Act, Congress works in a bi-partisan manner when it comes to doing right by our troops. I would like to thank my fellow Members of Congress for producing such a strong bi-partisan bill for the military."

The Defense Appropriations Act provides \$636 billion for the Department of Defense. Included in that amount is \$128 billion to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Previously, the wars were funded through emergency supplemental appropriations bills. The bill gives soldiers a 3.4% pay raise for the military, which is .5% above the President's request. Also in the bill is a provision to provide \$500 in stop-loss pay for troops who will see their term of service involuntarily extended in 2010.

Other provisions include nearly \$30 billion for military medical care, with \$500 million allocated for traumatic brain injury. Additionally, following the directive from previous legislation, this bill bars funds from going to the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Congressman Bright recently visited the military facility at Guantanamo Bay along with a bi-partisan delegation of other members of Congress.

"I am extremely pleased that the Defense Appropriations bill funds the 3.4% pay raise

that we passed out of the Armed Services Committee," Bright. "We can never do enough to fully compensate our soldiers, but this increase is certainly a step in the right direction.

Additionally, I am pleased that Congress continues to hold firm in withholding money for the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After touring the facility and meeting with our military stationed there, I can say without hesitation that Guantanamo should remain open in order to keep those that wish us harm out of the mainland United States."

Congressman Bright was able to secure \$5 million for the Javelin Missile, the weapon system of choice for soldiers in combat, which is built in Troy. The funds would help maintain Javelin's relevance into the future. This project will help troops in the field avoid friendly fire incidents, expand irregular warfare missions, minimize collateral damage, and allow for greater use of the Javelin.

"The Javelin Missile is an excellent piece of weaponry that has proven invaluable to our soldiers in the field," Bright said.

"It also has the added benefit of being built right here in the Second District in Troy. I am proud to request and secure funding for these missiles, and look forward to supporting our troops and our local military installations and suppliers in the future."